

Senate File 441 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 441
BY WAHLS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to kindergarten programs offered by school
2 districts.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 For a school or school district with a school calendar
4 measuring instructional time in days pursuant to section
5 279.10, subsection 1, define the minimum school day as a day
6 consisting of six hours of instructional time for ~~grades one~~
7 kindergarten through grade twelve. The minimum hours shall be
8 exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing time
9 between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences
10 shall be considered instructional time. A school or school
11 district may record a day of school with less than the minimum
12 instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the
13 following apply:

14 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 19, paragraph b, Code
15 2019, is amended to read as follows:

16 b. If the total hours of instructional school time for
17 ~~grades one~~ kindergarten through grade twelve for any five
18 consecutive school days equal a minimum of thirty hours,
19 even though any one day of school is less than the minimum
20 instructional hours because of a staff development opportunity
21 provided for the professional instructional staff or because
22 parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the
23 regular school day. Furthermore, if the total hours of
24 instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal at
25 least thirty hours because parent-teacher conferences have been
26 scheduled beyond the regular school day, a school or school
27 district may record zero hours of instructional time on the
28 fifth consecutive school day as a minimum school day.

29 Sec. 3. Section 256.9, subsection 31, paragraph a, Code
30 2019, is amended to read as follows:

31 a. Develop standards and instructional materials to do all
32 of the following:

33 (1) Assist school districts in developing appropriate
34 before and after school programs for elementary school
35 children.

1 bill eliminates references to half-day, full-day, and everyday
2 kindergarten programs.

3 Currently, students enrolled in kindergarten, whether in
4 full-day or half-day programs, are counted as one pupil for
5 purposes of state school foundation aid received by a school
6 district pursuant to Code chapter 257.

7 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
8 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
9 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
10 district from state school foundation aid received by the
11 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
12 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
13 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
14 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
15 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
16 mandates included in the bill.